KA-ZU-NARI!
YOU WROTE THAT LETTER AS SOME KINDA SICK JOKE!
WHY...
SHAKE
THEY'RE ALL SO SCARED ...
WHY'S EVERY-THING GONE OUT OF CON-TROL?
SO QUICK TO BLAME... AND INSULT...
SHAKE
KING'S GAME ORIGIN
KA-ZU-NARI!
DO YOU HEAR ME?!
THEY ALL SUSPECT NATSU-KO...
EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO PROOF THE KING'S GAME ACTUALLY ENDED...
I WOULDN'T DO THAT... AND YOU KNOW IT.
GROWL

THERE... CAN'T BE ANY MORE LETTERS FROM THE KING...

WHY... WHY?
NATSUKO SHOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA
ART BY J-TA YAMADA
CHAPTER 18
KING'S GAME ORIGIN

HUH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
WHAT MAKES HIM SO SURE?
NATSUKO SHOULD BE DEAD?!
GASP!!
I, ERR...
JUST MEANT THAT SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR DAYS, SO SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD IS ALL

I MEAN, IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE ANYONE SAW HER.
ANYONE WOULD THINK SHE'S DEAD BY NOW.
PERFECTLY NORMAL.
I MEAN KAZUNARI, EVEN YOU MUST SUSPECT—
SHE IS NOT DEAD!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A GOOD REASON WHY SHE'S STAYING HIDDEN!
SHUUHEI-SAN, YOU HAVE NO BASIS TO SAY—
SLAM

FOR GOD'S SAKE, DROP IT, KAZU-NARI!
INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT NATSUKO...
...WE NEED TO FOCUS ON TODAY'S ORDER.
GRR
SILENCE
SLIP
AL-THOUGH ...
THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
ぼりぼり

IF THAT WAS REALLY FROM THE KING...
...THEN IN 40 MINUTES...
ME...
KAZU-NARI...
YUUJI...
SHUUHEI-SAN...
RYUUJI...
LETTER. THIS IS THE KING'S GAME. ALL VILLAGERS ARE PARTICIPATING.
THE KING'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE. PLEASE CARRY THEM OUT BY THE END OF AUGUST 19TH
PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO QUIT.
ORDER 7: STARTING AT MIDNIGHT, ONE PERSON MUST COMMIT SUICIDE EVERY EIGHT HOURS
IF THE ORDER IS NOT FOLLOWED, ONE RANDOM PERSON WILL BE PUNISHED BY HAVING THEIR BONES SHREDDED

ONE OF US IS GONNA DIE.
SANAE-SAN...
KOUJI-SAN...
FUMIKO-SAN...
MY DAD, OR KAZUYA.
WE'VE EACH GOT A 10% CHANCE.

...THAT NATSUKO'S DEAD.
ASSUMING, OF COURSE...
GLARE
MEANING A 90% CHANCE OF SURVIVING.
TEN PERCENT...
BUT AT THE COST OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU...
...DYING.

TICK
SHIVER
MAKE THAT 39 MINUTES.
12
GLANCE
OR...
EXACTLY.
AND I DOUBT ANYONE'S GONNA COMMIT SUICIDE IN THE NEXT 40 MINUTES.

MEANING WE'RE ALL RISKING THAT 10% CHANCE OF DEATH.
ALL ANY OF US CAN DEPEND ON NOW IS LUCK.
MICHIKO...
AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
HN.!

IF BEING TERRIFIED WOULD INCREASE MY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL..
I'D BE PEEING MY PANTS AS WE SPEAK
BUT CRYING AND MOANING ISN'T GONNA SOLVE ANYTHING.
WE ALL KNOW THE POLICE ARE TOTALLY USELESS NOW
ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO, SO I CAN UNDERSTAND IF THAT'S WHAT YOU GUYS WANNA DO.

WE'RE DOING EVERY-THING WE CAN!
OH MY!
WE'VE BARELY SLEPT FOR DAYS!
AND HOW'S BRAG-GING ABOUT YOUR LACK OF SLEEP HELPING, EXACT-LY?
IF YOU WANT A BETTER REVIEW, YOU'VE GOT HALF AN HOUR TO CAPTURE THE KING!
HELL, DO THAT...
...AND YOU CAN "SLEEP" WITH ME TONIGHT, DOUJI-MA-SAN.
MICHIKO!
TUG

W-WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!
YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, FOR GOD'S SAKE, STOP THIS FOOLISH-NESS!
AGE IS JUST A NUMBER.
BE-SIDES...
I MAY VERY WELL DIE A HIGH SCHOOLER...
...BECAUSE THE COPS WEREN'T WORTH SHIT.
GRR...

FRIDAY
AUGUST 19,
7:55 A.M.

TOCK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TOCK

TWO...
...MINUTES LEFT.
...IN TWO MINUTES... SOMEONE WILL DIE.
IF THAT WAS A REAL LETTER...
TOCK
TICK
EITHER SOMEONE HERE IN THE HALL...
FIDGET
OR KAZUYA IN THE BACK ROOM.
OR NATSUKO, WHEREVER SHE IS.

PLEASE, GOD...
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...
JUST SAVE NATSUKO!
AT LEAST SAVE HER!
20 SECONDS...
TEN... NINE...
FOUR...
ONE...

TOCK

1 12

カチ TICK
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カチ TICK
コチ TOCK
WEEWWWW
NOTH-ING HAP-PENED ...
WHAT'S THIS MEAN?
DON'T TELL ME LITTLE KAZUYA'S DEAD?
NO, I'D HAVE HEARD IMMEDI-ATELY.
I'VE GOT AN OFFICER WITH KAZUYA-KUN AT ALL TIMES.
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
THEN... NO ONE'S BEING PUN-ISHED?

UNLIKE THE OTHERS, THERE WAS NO BLACK ENVELOPE THIS TIME.
WE CAN'T BE SURE YET, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE.
THEN IT WAS A FAKE AFTER ALL?
EVERY-ONE IN HERE IS SAFE...
WAS... WAS NATSUKO CHOSEN?
SHAKE
SHAKE
MAYBE IT'S LIKE THE POLICE SAID...
CALM DOWN, THERE'S NO PROOF THAT ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HER!
MAYBE THE LETTER I FOUND WAS A FAKE!

AND THAT MEANS NO ONE WILL DIE--
CRACK
HUH
WHA-
WOBBLE
WHAT ...
SWAY
HAP... PENED?

SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
AAH-
AAH-
AH-
AH-
AAAA

K-KOUJI-SAN—!
CRASH
SNAP SNAP
SNAP
CRUNCH

AAAAAH
AAAAAA
CRUNCH
CRACK
RIP
SNAP
PSHT
RIP
SNAP
RIP
SNAP

PSSSHHH
SPAT
SPAT
PSHT
CRACK
CRACK
TWITCH
TWITCH
SLUMP

DASH!!
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HIM?!
SPASM
SHOVE
NO! WHY?
DA—
DAD
PSHT
PSHT
URK
THE LETTER WAS REAL!
THE KING'S GAME ISN'T OVER!

DAD
DA.
SLAM
IIPA.

WELL...
WE'RE STILL ALIVE.
IF THERE IS A GOD, WE SHOULD PROBABLY THANK HIM.

MICHIKO!
HIS FATHER JUST DIED...
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!
HAVE SOME SYMPA-THY FOR SHUUHEI-SAN!
KOUJI-SAN WAS ALWAYS GOOD TO YOU TOO, WASN'T HE?!
HMM ...

HE DID GIVE ME SOME BOAR'S MEAT THAT HE HUNTED DOWN, AND IT WAS DEE-LICIOUS.
SLURP
MUT-KO...
THEN THERE WAS THAT BIRD...
NO IDEA WHAT SPECIES, BUT THAT WAS TASTY TOO.
OOPS.
I GUESS AFTER SEEING SOMEONE DIE LIKE THAT...
...IT'S PROBABLY IN BAD TASTE TO BE TALKING ABOUT FOOD, HUH?

YOU DON'T NEED TO GET ANGRY.
OUCH!
SLAM
YOU BITCH...
STOP JOKING!
COME ON KAZUNARI, AREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT YOU SURVIVED?
HOW COULD ANYONE FEEL HAPPY...
...AFTER SEEING SOMEONE THEY KNEW SO WELL GET MURDERED?!
.....

IT'S NO WONDER I'M HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH YOU.
YOU REALLY ARE A GREAT GUY, KAZUNARI.
I'M TOTALLY SERIOUS.
NO, NO.
STEP
YOU TRYING TO SEDUCE ME AGAIN?
LOVE?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GAGA OVER NATSUKO THAT YOU PROBABLY NEVER NOTICED, BUT...

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU FOREVER.